

# FIGHTER AND WRITER

The Famous General Alikhanoff, Of the Russian Army.

Any career in Russia is open to Russia's Asiatic subjects. Many of them rise to the highest position in the army and the civil government. Several have governed provinces and led large armies in warfare against other Asiatics.

One of the most famous of these men in recent times is General Alikhanoff, who became governor of Merv after he had annexed that province to the Czar's dominions. He was born at Baku, and was a Daghestani by birth. His name was Ali, and he added "Khan" because he came of a princely family, although reduced in circumstances. Later when he became an officer in the Russian army, he Russianized his name by adding "off" and making it one word.

He first became known by his bravery when attached to General Lazareff's force in the disastrous Russian campaign against the Turcomans in 1879. He was distinguished not only as a first-class fighting man, but as a war correspondent, his letters to the Moscow Gazette over the signature "Arsky," attracting widespread attention in England and causing alarm at the Russian advance toward the frontiers of India.

If Alikhanoff had lived in England or America he might have become one of the foremost war correspondents of the day, for he was remarkably skillful with pen and pencil, had an insatiable passion for scribbling, and beat all the accredited correspondents at newspaper work in the various campaigns in which he served.

He fell into disgrace at the close of the Russo-Turkish War, owing to a quarrel with a superior officer, and was reduced from the position of aide-camp to the Grand Duke Michael, viceroy of the Caucasus, to the rank of a common soldier. He won back his old rank while serving in the Pereslaff Dragoons during General Skobelev's campaign against the Turcomans in 1882, which was victorious.

Many stories are told of his reckless bravery—the bravery of a broken man who saw a chance to retrieve his reputation and win back his old position by rendering some great service. It is the custom in the Russian army to give officers who have been reduced to the ranks every opportunity to distinguish themselves, and, if they display extraordinary courage or render any special service, to restore them at a stroke of their former position.

This was done in the case of Alikhanoff, when he successfully accomplished his famous swoop upon Merv. The Russian frontiers in Asia are lined by such men, and it is obvious that they are dangerous to the peace of the Czar's dominions. If they see an opportunity to provoke strife they will seize it, for war is their only chance of getting back into the society of officers and gentlemen.

Alikhanoff captured a gun from the Turcomans and led a famous cavalry charge of half a squadron upon a force of over 1,000 Turcomans. He was rewarded by promotion to the rank of colonel, but that did not satisfy him.

He traveled to Merv in disguise and persuaded the inhabitants to be annexed to Russia. It was a most dangerous enterprise, and only a man like Alikhanoff, himself an Asiatic, could have carried it out successfully. His courage and diplomacy were rewarded by his being made the first governor of Merv. Subsequently he was given higher positions, and eventually rose to the rank of general in the army. It is significant of the Russian spirit that when he accomplished his famous raid upon Merv the deed was extolled as a Russian exploit and not as the achievement of a mere native.—Howard Kennedy, in the New York Post.

The Democratic party, or rather its organ in this county, is seeking the Italian vote. That is what John T. McGraw did, when he brought them in herds to this city and had them naturalized, but Johnny will not do it any more, because they said, "Me for McKinley," and they had good sense enough to vote that way, notwithstanding they were driven by Marion county Democratic politicians to the polls to vote the other way. McGraw has not heard of the present movement, and when he does, he will almost break his neck in a rush to call it off.—Clarksburg Telegram.

Oiled Roads a Success in California.

The success of oiled roads has been proved in Kern county in the last three years. The convenience of the petroleum has led to the oiling of no less than 145 miles of highway, which are now in fine condition for hauling heavy traffic, although many of them were formerly sandy roads that did not permit the transport of more than half an ordinary load without extra teams. The cost of maintenance has been far less than under the old system so that 50 miles of oiled road will be added this year.—San Francisco Chronicle.

## THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

A Russian View of the Ride into the Jaws of Death.

That the charge of the Light brigade seemed to onlookers a piece of magnificent folly is evident from all reminiscences of that day. First came the attack of the heavy brigade upon 3,000 Russian cavalry. Then later in the day the attempt to recapture seven guns taken from the Turks by the Russians in their first advance upon the redoubts led to the charge of the Light brigade.

"When we saw the English coming at us," says a Russian soldier, "there was but one thought, 'What fools!' we said. We never dreamed they would charge."

Ivan Ivanovitch, a Russian survivor of the day, says in his "Recollections": "We were so sorry for them. They were fine soldiers and had such fine horses. But the charge—it was the maddest thing ever done. We could not understand it. I had been in the charge of the heavy brigade in the morning and was wounded. We had all unsaddled and were tired. Suddenly there was a cry, 'The English are coming!'"

"Our colonel was angry and ordered the men to give no quarter."

"I was lying down, with my wound bandaged, when I saw them coming. We thought they were drunk from the way they held their lances. Instead of carrying them under their armpits they waved them in the air. Of course they were easier to guard against like that."

"Those men were mad and never seemed to think of the tremendous numbers against them nor of the fearful slaughter that had taken place in their ranks during that desperate ride. Then they reared up and dashed in among us, shouting, cheering and cursing. I never saw anything like it. They were irresistible and our men were quite demoralized."

## GRANT'S SYMPATHY.

Tribute of a Southern Woman to the General's kindly Nature.

The sympathetic side of General Grant's nature, as every one knows, was very strong. A few days after the surrender of Vicksburg a southern lady hurried to his quarters to ask for information about her husband, of whose safety she had heard conflicting reports. The general replied that he could not give her the information she desired, but that he would send an orderly at once to find out the facts for her. When the man returned with the news that her husband was safe the southern woman's eyes filled with tears of gratitude, while tears of sympathy showed on the cheeks of General Grant. On another occasion, it was years after—at a banquet in Vicksburg given him when he was making a tour of the southern states one was heard expressing her gratitude to him for past kindnesses. As he replied to her two tears rolled slowly down his cheeks.

For little children and old people General Grant showed special sympathy. Many who were small boys in those days remembered his way of drawing them to him and impressing a pleasant cheer upon them.

One old lady who afflicted her friends by her propensity for scribbling was often the recipient of a good letter from him. The lady was truly appreciated, as the general's staff was always of the best. When he was ill in Washington she sent him some wild flowers "from the hills of Vicksburg," for which a letter of thanks was promptly returned. Subsequently, when she visited Washington, she was kindly received by the president, who, to her delight, presented her with some more of his good cigars.—Eden Gray in Leslie's Weekly.

## Crops, Gizzards and Stomachs.

Insects are oddly constructed atoms of animated nature, as a rule, and it depends altogether on the species as to internal makeup. In bees the crop is called the honey bag. Insects with mandibles usually have a modified form of the "gizzard" so typical in the common barnyard fowl. In some cases this miniature "gizzard" is a perfect wonder shop, its inner surface being provided with "pads" covered with "horns" and "bristles" in great profusion. The grasshopper's "gizzard" is lined with innumerable rows of teeth, very minute, of course, but well developed, true teeth, nevertheless. The same may be said of crickets and other insects of that ilk.

## Age of Mother Earth.

An eminent scientist's estimate of the age of the world is "not so great as 40,000,000 years, possibly as little as 20,000,000 years, probably 30,000,000 years." As not even the greatest scientists have been able to find out within 10,000,000 or 15,000,000 years how old Mother Earth is, it must be confessed that she keeps the secret of her age quite as well as do her charming daughters. The scientists may at last come to the conclusion that, like the others, she is "only as old as she looks."—Baltimore Sun.

## Rasped.

"Do you shave yourself very close?" said the barber.

"Not very," said the victim. "I usually leave enough skin to fasten the coat plaster on, but of course you didn't know that before you began."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

## His Theory.

"It is better to rule by love than fear," said the gentle philosopher. "Yes," answered Senator Sorghum; "it is people's love of money that has made life easy for me."—Washington Star.

Too much effort to increase our happiness transforms it into misery.—Rousseau.

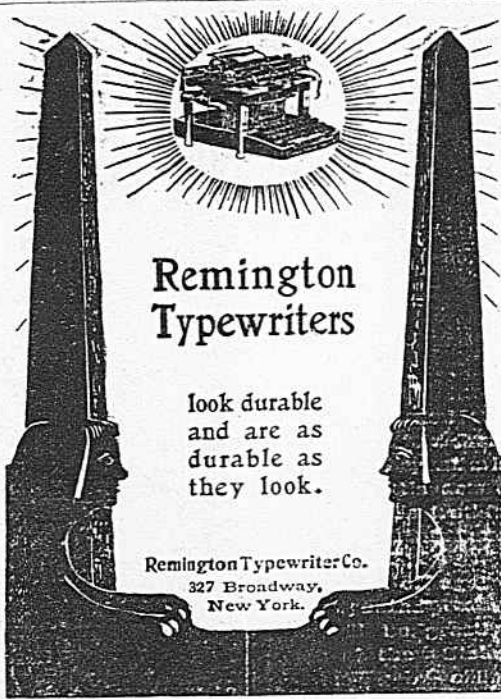
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## An Alligator Farm.

Several French dealers have recently visited the United States to purchase stock for an alligator farm, which they propose starting in the South of France. Alligator skin has become so highly prized throughout France that the animal dealers believe it will pay well to raise the alligators on this, the first farm of its kind in the world. Not long ago President Loubet received a present of a hunting suit of alligator skin. The skin is said to be growing scarcer each year, and there is always a great demand for it for boots, shoes, handbags, writing pads, portfolios and toilet articles.

## No Work in His.

Fuzzy Fred—Ef enny feller wuz ter call me a liar wot do youze tink I'd do?

Weary Willie—Dunno. Give him a cross loog mebbe.

Fuzzy Fred—Naw; I'd go ter work an' fix him fer de horspittle.

Weary Willie—Well, mebbly I'd fix him fer de horspittle, but I wouldn't go ter work.



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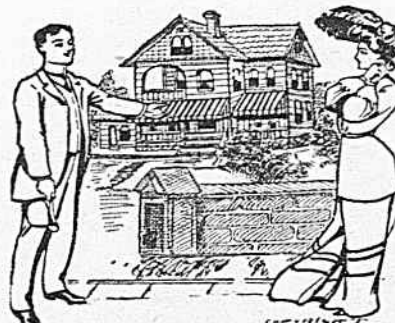
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